



DR. E. VAN HOOD,

Physician and Surgeon and President of the Ocala Board of Health.

The subject of these lines needs no introduction to the people of Marion county and those who border on us. Twenty years of skilled and successful practice is to his credit. He was born a philanthropist and humanitarian and for his many unselfish and professional acts of kindness to the unfortunate and needy, he has been installed a "patron saint" in many homes. This generous hearted, modest, unassuming person, who carries his religion into his every day life, was born in Hamilton, Ga., in 1861. Received his schooling in his native town until nineteen years of age, then read medicine in the office of his home practitioners, Drs. Mitchell and Copeland for several years, then took a course in the Atlanta Medical College, supplementing the same with a two years' course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, graduating with distinction in 1887, remaining one year for hospital practice, further perfecting himself in his profession by a year's practice in the U. S. Marine Hospital, Baltimore, and then came to Ocala, Florida, in 1888, where his father, Richard Hood, resided with a daughter. Here he offered his services to the public, who took kindly to him, but Ocala held out inducements that he could not resist, and he practiced here ever since.

He has ever responded to the call of distress and when the yellow fever epidemic in 1888 strewn mourning



SAMUEL A. RAWLS.

Mr. Rawls was born near Jacksonville, Fla., about 34 years ago. He received a common school education in that city, and once launched out for himself. He is a self-made man, and one of the most successful young business men in the South. Mr. Rawls engaged in insurance business and was employed in transportation offices in Jacksonville until he was grown. He was an officer in a Jacksonville company of the State troops, and during the Spanish-American war, having failed to get to Cuba, where he could see active service, entered the quartermaster's department of the regular army, and was stationed at Savannah. From there he went to Nebraska and held an important place in the office of the quartermaster. His splendid business attainments, and expert knowledge of accounts made him a very valuable man with the department, and promotion was sure and soon, but about this time, Mr. Walter Cochran of Jacksonville secured the lease of the State convicts of Florida, and offered Mr. Rawls the position of office manager for the system. He accepted it. When the Florida Naval Stores and Commission Company, of which Mr. Cochran was president, opened the convict hospital and camp at this place, and made Ocala headquarters, Mr. Rawls was transferred to this point, moved his family here, and rapidly became an important factor in the business interests of the community. After the lease of the State convicts went into other hands, Mr. Rawls organized a company, and with himself as the head, bought up the lease, and with the beginning of the new year, January 1st, 1906, took charge of the business, under the name of S. A. Rawls & Co.

Mr. Rawls has since that time organized a dozen or more companies, some being among the strongest in the State, and is either the head or a moving spirit of all. Notable among the companies that he has organized are the Marion Farms, the Marion Farm Stables, the Marion Hardware Co., the T. E. Bridges Company, the S. A. Rawls Company and S. A. Rawls & Co., and several big naval stores companies in different parts of the State.

Mr. Rawls was married about six years ago, in Savannah, to Miss Maloney, whom he met at her home in Nebraska, and two children have come to bless the union.

Mr. Rawls is a member of most of the leading fraternal orders of the State, and since he has resided here has done more for the business interests of Ocala and the county than almost any man in the city. Mr. Rawls' knowledge of accounts and ability for managing men and big business propositions, is almost phenomenal for a man of his years, and the mere fact that Sam Rawls is interested in the promotion of a business proposition is assurance ample that it will succeed.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

By Hon. H. W. Long, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, October 17th, 1906.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren of the Mystic Tie:

In my address of welcome on this majestic occasion, it seems to be eminently proper to give a brief history of the formation of Marion county—its metes and bounds; the selection of Marion county as the site, and a list of the names of its first county officers, together with the dates and costs of the several court houses that have been built therein.

Marion county was created by statutory law, March 14, 1844, and bounded as follows:

Beginning on the north bank of the big Withlacoochee river at the range line dividing ranges 17 and 18, run north to township line dividing townships 11 and 12, thence east along said line to Orange Lake, thence down said lake to orange creek, thence down said creek to its junction with the Ocklawaha river, thence down said river to the range line dividing range lines 26 and 27, thence south along said line to township line dividing townships 21 and 22, thence west to the head of the little Withlacoochee river, thence down said river to its junction with the big Withlacoochee river, thence down said last mentioned river to the place of beginning.

According to my map the north-east corner of the county was three miles east of the St. Johns river, now in Putnam county. Its southern portion embraced nearly all of the territory that now comprises Sumter and Lake counties. The boundaries were changed by the legislatures of 1846, 1853, 1859, 1877 and 1887, reducing its area to its present status.

The following named persons were Marion county's first officers, viz:

Judge of probate, John M. McIntosh, commissioned July 26, 1845; clerk of circuit court, John G. Reardon, commissioned October 31, 1845; S. F. Halliday, commissioned November 4, 1846; sheriff, E. D. Howse, commissioned October 31, 1845; assessor of taxes, Samuel Mettler, commissioned July 26, 1845; county surveyor, A. J. Lyon, commissioned January 14, 1846; county commissioners, Abraham Geiger, commissioned October 31, 1845, John Morrison, commissioned October 31, 1845, Thomas Barnes, commissioned October 31, 1845; Solomon P. Halliday, commissioned October 31, 1845; Cotton Rawls, commissioned October 31, 1845.

Justices of the peace—Dist. No. 3, William D. Branch, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 3, Allen Sudavant, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 6, Daniel A. McDavid, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 6, John McNeal, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 6, John Munroe, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 7, James Clark, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. 7, Robert H. Williams, commissioned September 10, 1845; Dist. No. —, Benjamin Grant, October 31, 1845; Dist. No. 1, D. Hemmingway, commissioned October 31, 1845; Dist. No. 2, John J. Tucker, commissioned November 4, 1846; Dist. No. 2, J. C. Stewart, commissioned November 4, 1846.

Coroner—John A. Rice, commissioned January 14, 1846.

Marion Rangers—Joseph B. Brown, captain, commissioned September 15, 1845; William S. Murphy, 1st lieutenant, commissioned September 15, 1845; Chas. L. Powell, 2nd lieutenant, commissioned September 15, 1845.

John G. Reardon, clerk of the circuit court, was appointed county treasurer, February 20, 1846, and S. F. Halliday was appointed clerk of the circuit court, and Cotton Rawls dropped out of the records as county commissioner.

The county commissioners of Marion county, Florida, at a regular meeting held at Ft. King, February 20, 1846, took such official action as was necessary to authorize John G. Reardon, county treasurer, to enter from the government of the United States the east half of the northeast quarter, and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 18, and fractional number 3, of section 17, of township 15 south, of range 22 east, containing 200 acres of land, for a county site, to be known by the name of Ocala. The old survey of Ocala was made and platted by David Bruton, county surveyor.

At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners, held at Ft. King, April 27, 1846, block No. 67, upon which is located the First Methodist church of Ocala, was selected to build a temporary court house upon, and Commissioners Abraham Geiger and Thomas Barnes were appointed as a building committee, with power to act. The size of the building was to be 20x28 feet, built of logs, other details being specified, among which was that the hinges for doors and windows should be of iron. The contract to build the court house was awarded to James Carruthers at the sum of \$225.00, on the 6th day of October, 1846,

the contract to do the inside work of the court house, consisting of a judge's stand, tables, jury benches, etc., was awarded to James Carruthers, at the sum of \$300.00. Also a contract on that day to build jury rooms out of logs, 24x14 feet in the clear, petition across the center door in each end, etc., to be built on the court house lot was awarded to James Ellis, at the sum of \$100.00.

In due time these buildings were completed and accepted by the county commissioners.

The board of county commissioners held their first meeting, which by them was styled "The Court," in the new court house in Ocala, September 7, 1846. Present, John M. McIntosh, judge of probate, and ex-officio president and clerk of the board; Abraham Geiger, John Morrison and S. F. Halliday, commissioners.

At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners held in Ocala, March 8, 1848, C. A. M. Mitchell, esq., presented to the board a subscription signed by several persons obligating themselves to pay, or contribute, five or six hundred dollars towards building a suitable and substantial court house. He also presented a petition signed by a number of citizens, petitioning the board to have such court house built; whereupon the board took action in accordance with said petition, resulting in awarding the contract to build the new court house on the public square of Ocala, according to plans and specifications that had been adopted, but not entered in the minutes, to J. A. Barber, at the sum of \$3,110.00, September 3, 1850.

A peculiarity in awaiting this contract was, all sealed bids were rejected as being too high, and the board let out the contract then and there by public auction to the lowest bidder, resulting in a saving of \$90.00 to the tax payers.

The building was completed and received by the county commissioners December 1, 1851. This building, as to size, architecture, and finish, being very familiar to most of our people, and no plans and specifications of it being accessible, I will not attempt to describe it in detail. It was a frame building out of lumber, neatly painted outside, and plastered inside, with a stairway going up to the court room outside of the east end, having corridors on the ground floor east and west, and north and south through the center of the building. This court house was used as such for thirty odd years, during this time such learned jurist as Judges Forward, Putnam, Goss, Dawkins, Kincaid and Finley held the scales of justice in equal poise; the bar of the court being occupied by many of the most learned and eloquent barristers of the land. This building, some eighteen years ago was replaced by a substantial brick building, at a cost of \$15,000.00, but was too small to accommodate the officers of the county and did not afford protection for important public records, and was deficient in architecture from start to finish. That building is now being replaced by this magnificent temple of justice, which is modern and up-to-date in its architecture in all of its departments, and affords an office for each county officer, jury rooms and waiting rooms, etc., and suitable offices for the judge of the fifth judicial circuit court of Florida and states attorney.

Although the building as a whole will practically be a fire-proof building, as a wise precaution of absolute safety, vault space has been provided for the different offices for all important records.

As this address will be deposited in the corner stone and may be read by generations yet to come, as a memento to the memory of the patriotism, sacrifices, hardships and perils of those grand men, who brought their families and established homes within the territory that now comprises our county, who, as pioneers of civilization cast their destinies in a wilderness country, where they often had to place their families in forts constructed of logs in the form of houses, with port holes at convenient distances apart, through which, with the trusty rifle, and flint and steel shot gun, protected their lives from the raids of a ruthless foe whose highest ambition was to carry off the scalp of a pale face as a trophy of their savage pride.

Such men as Marion county's first county officers, the Taylors, Tanners, Rawls, Edwards, Brooks, Currys, Blitches, Strunkens, Myers, Scotts, Quattlebaums, Manns, Granthams, Pains, Spanns, Provinces, McNeals, Lincins, Rogers, Watermans, McGaghins and others, including that gallant soldier of two wars, and statesman, General Robert Bullock, are worthy of having their name inscribed upon a monument of marble in ineffable letters of gold. These men and their self-sacrificing wives are entitled to the everlasting gratitude of you, my fellow citizens, and of generations to come, for their zeal and well directed activity in establishing a county government, schools, churches, public roads, bridges and ferries, thereby laying the foundation

for immigration and building up a great and prosperous county such as we now enjoy. Of the long list of names above referred to, all except Josiah Pain, who was living in Georgia when last heard from, have passed over the river of death, and are now resting "under the shade of the trees. One poet has sung the following sad requiem:

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their toils and cares,
Are hurried downward by the flood,
And lost in fo'ring years."

I prefer Longfellow's version, who wrote:

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us,
Foot-prints on the sands of time."

I ask you to go back with me over fifty years ago and let us briefly review Ocala and Marion county as I then saw them.

In Ocala there was an unpretentious hotel upon the block upon which the Ocala House now stands, known as the "Ocala House," conducted by that great and good man, Wm. F. J. Harris, and his estimable wife; another known as the "Bullock House," located about where Galson's store is now. There was in operation two grocery stores, one saloon, four stores doing a general mercantile business, one taylor shop, two drug stores, one small repair or harness shop, one blacksmith and wheel right establishment and a postoffice. The practicing physicians were Dr. A. C. Brown, and Drs. Heard and Rogers. As I remember Col. S. M. G. Gary, Col. Samuel St. George Rogers and Charles Pasley were the only practicing attorneys. Spanns and Province, having left the county.

The above constituted the business interests of Ocala. The East Florida Seminary stood where the Ocala high school now stands. There were two mills, south and north, by stage from Palatka to and from Tampa. Transportation to and from Marion county was by barges, operated by poles from Silver Springs to and from Palatka, and from that point by steamboat to and from Savannah and Charleston. In the county there were four towns, Silver Springs, Orange Springs, Flemington and Wacahoota, which had respectively from two to three stores. From 1845 to 1856 large and small slave owners bought and settled plantations in the most fertile sections of the county, which marked a new era in its history and largely changed the habits and customs of the people on lines of progress and prosperity.

The war between the states followed, the results of which are familiar to all present. It was followed by reconstruction and the direful effects of carpetbag rule from 1868 to 1876 was borne with a fortitude that perhaps none would have submitted to but a dispirited and impoverished people. In 1876 the democrats assisted by most of the decent white republicans of the state, by their united efforts redeemed the state from misrule, thereby causing another era to dawn.

The democratic party of Florida established a wise, conservative and honest government, which restored confidence and caused capital and immigration to flow into the state. And, notwithstanding millions of dollars was swept away by two bank failures in Ocala by the freezes of 1894-95, and the destruction of the best portion of Ocala by fire, Marion county rose above these disasters and is now girdled with railroads and prosperous towns have sprung up as if by magic throughout the county. Our people as a whole are out of debt, many of whom have deposits in one or more of our four substantial banks. We have a school system that is efficient, officered, which in educational facilities is equal to the most advanced counties of the state. We have sixty miles of good roads, and the good work continues.

Did time permit I would briefly review some of Marion county's vast and diversified resources, consisting in part of its agricultural and horticultural productions, its untold millions of phosphate, lime and timber, its manufacturing and industrial enterprises, its blooded stock, its vast quantities of pork, beef and mutton slaughtered annually; its beautiful rivers, majestic lakes, and its far-famed Silver Springs, and Blue Springs, whose limpid waters clear as a crystal and more transparent than light, where sixty feet below the surface of the water may be seen innumerable and indescribable, variegated colors, which to the steady gaze of wondrous eyes glitters and glimmers and glows like sparkling diamonds of rainbow hues, which seem to be gently floating in ethereal space as the finishing touches of the artistic perfection of beauty of the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Marion county today stands abreast with the most progressive counties of the state in progress and material prosperity. Its offices are perhaps in advance of some of the rank and file of her people on lines of progress. I thank God that I am about to realize one of my highest aspirations dur-

ing the past fifteen years, which was to see an up-to-date court house erected in Ocala, in keeping with the necessities of the people of a great, rich, progressive and prosperous county. I would rather have my name inscribed on this corner stone as an humble co-worker with my efficient associates members of the board of county commissioners of Marion county, Fla., aided by the citizen's advisory committee, and our county advisor, all of whom have stood shoulder to shoulder with me in all of the complex and difficult problems we had to overcome, than to become governor of Florida, president of the United States, or one of the blessed millionaires of the land.

I thank you fair ladies for your presence on this occasion to aid us in extending a welcome to visitors, your presence and your smile speaks a welcome that is louder than words to our distinguished visitors from beyond the limits of our county. In behalf of the people of Marion county I extend to all visitors a cordial welcome to our beautiful city and fertile country.

To you, most Worshipful Grand Master, and through you most Worshipful Sir, in behalf of our people, I extend to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, F. & A. M., and all visiting Masons, a most fraternal welcome among us on this important epoch in the history of Marion county. Again I say to all, welcome, thrice welcome among us.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, after introducing you to respond to the address of welcome, I commit to you the work of laying the corner stone, knowing full well that when it is done will be found to be square work, plumb work and true work, and just such work as we are authorized to receive.

Ladies, gentlemen and fellow citizens, it affords me great pleasure to introduce to you, Most Worshipful Charles W. Johnson, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, F. & A. M.

H. W. LONG.

Chairman Board of County Commissioners, of Marion County, Florida.

LOUIS R. CHAZAL.

Mr. Chazal is one of the pioneer phosphate men of the State, and a man whose citizenship in Ocala dates back almost to the inception of the great phosphate industry.

Mr. Chazal was born in the historic city of Charleston, S. C. He received a liberal education and is today one of the best read men, and one of the most interesting conversationalists in the city. His trained business mind and the excellent judgment that he displays has brought him a large measure of success. Mr. Chazal has a keen desire for the material, moral and social advancement of the city and has done his full share to promote her every interest.

Mr. Chazal was married while quite young, has reared a family of six interesting children, and owns one of the handsomest homes in the city, on Fort King Avenue.

THE HOLDER BLOCK

Ocala is soon to possess, without an exception, the most complete and modern office building in the State. There are larger buildings, but none better fitted nor possessing more conveniences than the Holder Block, formerly the Marion Block and Opera House, which is now rapidly nearing completion. Mr. Edward Holder, of phosphate fame, and one of the most successful of the phosphate operators in the state, purchased this property early in the year, and immediately made plans for its remodeling. The first floors, which are used as stores, will not be materially changed, except that they will be steam heated, and better lighted, but the second and third floors were entirely rebuilt and made into about thirty offices. The building will be steam heated in every room, the heat will come from the boiler in the basement, below the street level. An electric elevator, the most modern to be had, with marble stairway as well, will give ingress and egress to the building. The halls are tiled, and the offices provided with ground glass doors and hard wood, double floors. The plumbing, electric light, telephone and messenger system of wiring is the most complete in the country. Every office will be steam heated, plumbed, and the wiring is ready when the tenant desires telephone service. There are complete lavatories, and toilets for both sexes, on each floor, and there is not an office in the building that does not have plenty of air and light, does not have plenty of air and light, by the new arrangement of the building. The offices will all be ready for tenants before the first of the year, and part of them by the first of November. Most of the offices are now leased for a term of years. Mr. Holder anticipated spending \$10,000 on this building in the changes in addition to the original cost of the property, but it must have greatly exceeded this sum. Accommodations, such as this office building will give, will bring the headquarters of business firms to Ocala, who would not otherwise come here.

Mr. Holder has now become a citizen of Ocala, and as soon as his residence on Fort King avenue is ready, will move his household from Dunnellon to this city.

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